

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

5 A suspension system includes a longitudinal member, an air spring, a damper and
an axle assembly. The air spring is not directly attached to the chassis but is mounted to
contact a locating plate attached to the chassis. The locating plate includes a lip such that
10 the locating plate is of a frustum configuration that laterally locates and self aligns the air
spring upon pivotal movement and re-alignment of the air spring with the chassis.
Preferably, the suspension system includes a protective skirt which aids in bringing the
air cell into a correct position with the locating plate. In addition the axle assembly
extends away from the chassis at a speed restricted by the damper such that the anti-vacuum
10 system can equalize the pressure within the air cell.

G:\M\MERITOR\p00390\PATENT\APP390.doc